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Security Council

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Letter dated 28 November 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a communiqué, forwarded by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, on strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union that was adopted by the African Union Peace and Security Council at its 628th meeting (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring this communiqué to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex

[Original: English]

On behalf of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, I would like to forward, herewith attached, the communiqué on strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa adopted by the African Union Peace and Security Council at its 628th meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 29 September 2016 (see enclosure).

The Commission would appreciate it if this communiqué were circulated to members of the United Nations Security Council.

(*Signed*) Smail **Chergui**
Ambassador
African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security

Enclosure

[Original: English]

Communiqué

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 628th meeting, held on 29 September 2016, was briefed by the Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Smail Chergui, and the United Nations Special Representative to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU), Haile Menkerios, on strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa and adopted the following decision:

Council:

1. **Takes note** of the briefings provided by the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security and the United Nations Special Representative to the African Union and Head of UNOAU, as well as the statements delivered by the representatives of China, France, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America;

2. **Recalls** its previous press statements and communiqués on African Union-United Nations partnership, in particular the communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.(CCCVII)] of its 307th meeting, held on 9 January 2012, which considered the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the partnership between the AU and the United Nations on peace and security;

3. **Welcomes** the report of the United Nations Secretary-General on strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa, including the work of the United Nations Office to the African Union (S/2016/780), which emphasizes the need for new and stronger ways to address international peace and security challenges and renews the United Nations commitment to strengthen partnership between the two organizations on the basis of collective responsibility to respond early, coherently and decisively to prevent and manage conflicts;

4. **Commends** the significant progress made in African Union-United Nations partnership in the past five years and **stresses** that it develops into a systematic, predictable and strategic one. Furthermore, Council **welcomes** the signing by the United Nations Secretariat and the AU Commission of an overarching framework on enhancing partnership in peace and security in Africa;

5. **Recognizes** the primacy of the United Nations Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security, as defined by the Charter of the United Nations and **acknowledges** the need for Africa to enhance its capacity to address the scourge of conflicts on the continent. In this regard, Council **stresses** the importance of further strengthening the partnership between the AU Peace and Security Council and the Security Council consistent with Chapter VII of the Charter for the enhancement of coordination on peace and security issues in Africa, to ensure that AU views are taken into account;

6. **Reiterates its call** for a division of labour based on comparative advantages, burden-sharing and consultative decision-making between the AU Peace and Security Council and the Security Council in addressing peace and security challenges in Africa, as a way forward to forging meaningful partnerships between the two organizations. Consistent with such a framework, Council further **reiterates its appeal** to the United Nations for the use of United Nations assessed contributions in support of AU peace support operations, as recommended in the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, which called on the United Nations to consider providing support from assessed contributions, on a case-by-case basis, for those AU peace support operations authorized by the Security Council;

7. **Reaffirms** the importance of mobilizing more significant resources from within the continent in support of the AU peace and security agenda. In this regard, Council **calls on** all AU member States to foster the process aiming at finding practical and consensual ways on how to effectively implement Assembly decision Assembly/AU/Dec.605(XXVII) relating to the Peace Fund, as endorsed by the Assembly at its 27th Ordinary Session, held in Kigali in July 2016;

8. **Underscores** the important role played by the African members in the Security Council to defend the African common positions in the Security Council and **emphasizes** the need for the African members to maintain unity in the interaction within the Security Council;

9. **Notes** the close cooperation that exists between the AU Commission and the United Nations Secretariat, including the consultations among senior officials and the holding of regular desk-to-desk meetings and **encourages** them to pursue and intensify their efforts towards greater coordination and collaboration Council **stresses** the need to take all appropriate measures to ensure that the AU Commission is adequately resourced to strengthen the strategic partnership with the United Nations in the area of peace and security, and **calls upon** the Security Council to consider authorizing the strengthening of its secretariat to achieve this objective;

10. **Decides, in this regard**, to continue its efforts to strengthen collaboration with the Security Council, including, among others, by increasing dialogue and implementation of the conclusions adopted by the AU Peace and Security Council and the Security Council during the annual joint consultative meetings, aiming at fostering closer coordination and cooperation between the two organizations;

11. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.